

THE DEFENDER

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October 1961

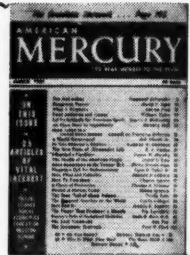


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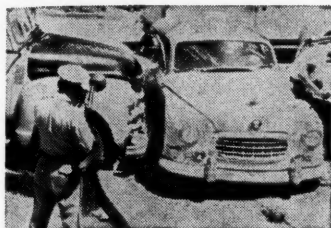
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3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						

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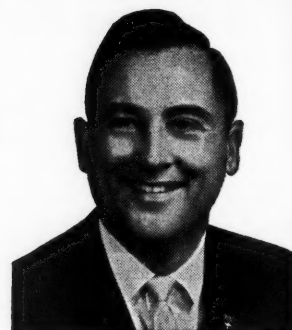
Publisher's Comment

Fellowship With God

BY GWYNNE W. DAVIDSON, D.D.

President

Defenders of the Christian Faith, Inc.



October 1961 Volume 36, No. 6

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GERALD B. WINROD, D.D., FOUNDER

WHY IS MAN ON EARTH?

Have you ever thought about that question? I suppose you have, for most people occupy their minds with it at some time or other. Through the ages, men have tried to find a satisfactory answer.

Does science, philosophy or history have the answer? Time and again man has turned to these departments of thought for enlightenment, but in vain.

Science, with its observation, investigation and classification of facts, has learned many things about man, but offers no conclusion to this problem. Philosophy, with its love of wisdom, has attempted to make intelligent guesses, but they are only guesses at best. History, with its social, economic and political story of man, has little to proffer by way of interpreting its own meaning.

Where, then, must one turn for light and understanding? Where else but to the eternal Word of God?

The Bible says the earth was to be productive in grass, herbs, and fruit (Genesis 1:20-25). For whose use, benefit and enjoyment? *To serve the needs, welfare and happiness of man.* God Himself makes this fact clear: "Let (man) have dominion over the fish ... over the fowl ... over the cattle ... and over all the earth."

Isaiah 45:18 reads, "God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited." So, you see, God purposed the earth as a home for man, and with tender care and solicitude filled it with abundant natural resources.

As someone once wrote, "The

house was built, furnished, and amply stored, by the time the desired tenant was ready to occupy it."

Why did God do so much to provide for man? *The heart of God had a yearning that could only be expressed in fellowship.* He wanted sons and daughters. That this passion for children took form in the creation of man and in the processes of redemption is not only made known in Genesis and Isaiah, but is the fundamental truth of Scripture.

The Apostle John reveals the heart of the matter: "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ." (I John 1:3.)

How wonderful! How good of God to lavish His love upon you. As a believer, you are privileged to have fellowship with Him, with His Son and with His Saints. This is not only your joy, but His joy, too; for in His purpose of love, He planned for a family of sons and daughters through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:4,5).

Think of what this means! As a child has access to his father, so you have access to God. He wants you to approach Him with all the confidence of His child.

The greater dimensions of this fellowship, however, are in the love that exists between the Father and His family. Who can measure the height and depth of it? Who is able to estimate its value and worth, its infinite capacity for good? As you face the exigencies of these troubled times, you can settle down in His love, knowing that it will armor you against every evil.

Like the last bit of sand in an hourglass . . .

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

BY DR. PAUL S. REES

"But this I say, brethren, the time is short" (1 Corinthians 7:29).

MUCH OF OUR MODERN living seems to take the form of a race against time. We are forever competing with the clock or the calendar. Indeed this fact constitutes, for many of us, one of life's minor, if not major, irritations.

To carry out this assignment, to read this book, to teach this lesson, to make this sale, or even to complete this vacation, we have just so much time and no more. There may be exceptions, but this is pretty much the rule in our hardpressed, clock-punching world.

Paul felt that time, like the last bit of sand in an hourglass, was running out. He felt therefore that measures strong and serious — yes, even extreme — should be taken to make every precious moment yield its full sixty seconds of value. Are there not good reasons for believing that we should feel the same way in this day of destiny?

To start where the circle of our thought is the largest, we apparently are justified in looking at our civilization as a whole and saying, "Brethren, the time is short."

It is not easy for our minds to conceive of the disaster that threatens now to engulf the world. This is particularly true of Americans, who never did develop any talent for pessimism. Yet optimism is not always the twin of common sense. There is a blind date determination to look on the bright side that stupidly ignores actual dangers.

Dr. W. E. Sangster, of London, tells in one of his books about a man

whose wife was gravely ill. Dr. Sangster called on her. The husband said cheerily, "She is bound to get better. I am an optimist, you know. I always look on the bright side of things."

"Nevertheless," reports the pastor, "I buried that man's wife before the week was out."

There ought to be some place allowed for the difference between being an optimist and being a fool. Our most discerning and realistic thinkers are giving us a straight talk these days. They are warning us that nothing short of a tremendous spiritual recovery will save us from the shattering of our civilization.

SOMETIMES IT APPEARS that the ominous rush of events and the tragic dribbling away of our golden hours are more sharply felt by the scientists than by representatives of the church. If the politicians and preachers, along with millions of money-grabbing, pleasure-intoxicated Americans, are dull to the fact that the time is short, the men who are working on the weapons of war are stingingly awake and are trying to wake up the rest of us to the fact that civilization may not be more than a short time away from its catastrophic ending.

In the light of these conditions, do not Paul's words take on a new and biting meaning: "Brethren, the time is short!"

You say, "Yes, but what do you want us to do?" It is a good question.

The other day I read an editorial entitled "Hydrogen and Hysteria." The gist of it was that the sensational revelations of recent months

with respect to a super bomb and its terrors have been, in the main, wrongly slanted. They have been twisted to mean nothing more than this: that we should get more and more infuriated at Russia and throw more and more millions of dollars into building a purely material defense against her. If that is all that we can see in the threat of doom that hangs over the world, then it is a form of hysteria.

What is needed is a much more wholesome use of the fears that now have taken hold of men's hearts. All of our world leaders need to humble themselves before Almighty God. Our godless cleverness has had its day — and failed. God's Christ is the way out. But "the time is short!"

THINK, IN THE NEXT PLACE, of our nation, and see if there is not a solid message for the United States in this cautioning word of the apostle.

In many ways we have been a spendthrift people. The vast territory to which our fathers came seemed to hold endless possibilities, for exploitation. We were reckless with our wild life. The law of action was "Shoot and kill, and shoot and kill."

So it came to pass that by the time the states and the federal government got around to the business of setting up game preserves, and parks, and establishing set times for hunting, some species of animals and birds had been rendered virtually extinct. It is stated on good authority that when the white settlers were forming their first colonies here, there were not less than 75,000,000 head of buffalo roaming the land. Today there are approximately 4,000 left.

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No. cars in household _____ Occupation _____

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Similarly, we have been reckless of our top soil. What we have not exhausted by over-planting we have permitted to get away from us by a preventable erosion. Land experts estimate that for years we have allowed 4,000,000,000 tons of the "good earth" to be washed into the Gulf of Mexico annually.

In our greed for quick profits we adopted, in farming, the law of "Plow and plant, and plow and plant." When the land gave out, we simply moved West and took more land. But that time is past; the Pacific Ocean has seen to that!

We have done much the same thing with our forests where for years the law of operation was; "Cut and sell, and cut and sell."

In these areas of our national life we have begun in comparatively recent times, to wake up. We discovered that time was running out. With a wanton wastefulness we were destroying our natural resources, and the day of reckoning was just around the corner.

WE ARE MOVING FAST in some other directions, with little indication that we realize that there, too, time is running out on us.

Some years ago we embarked upon a national policy of "Spend and tax, and spend and tax." With our federal debt mounting by the hundreds of millions even in peacetime, we need the courage to say to ourselves, "Brother Americans, the time is short! We cannot keep this up and hold on to the America that our fathers bled to create."

Fabulous debt and equally fabulous taxes are not our worst national threat. Our gravest peril is the general weakening of our moral fiber.

When it was reported recently that Congressmen had been observed in a state of intoxication while presuming to transact the nation's business, one of our big city columnists made it a point to conduct a personal investigation. The best that he was able to report back to some of his disturbed readers was that there is no more drinking to excess among these top legislators than might be found in an average group of men of similar size. It was not denied that Congressmen

have been on the floor while in a more or less befogged state of mind induced by over-imbibing. It just is not pleasant to think of men as weak as that making critically important decisions at national and international level.

This cancer of moral uncleanness has been spreading through our land. Are we going to check it or not? Time is running out on us. What Washington needs is not so much a political as a spiritual housecleaning of the kind that will put the fear of God in the hearts of those who occupy the seats of the mighty.

We need to set our house in order on these dear shores where waves the Stars and Stripes. We need to listen to some prophet of God who will say to us, "Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil-doers, children that are corrupters; they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked anger, they are gone away backward" (Isaiah 1:4). We need to confess our sins. In Washington, in every state capitol, and in every city hall in these United States, we need to make way for sober and righteous leadership. We shall do it or else! For, "Brethren, the time is short."

THERE IS A THIRD SPHERE where the truth of our text needs to be emphasized. I am thinking of the church. More especially I am thinking of the church's responsibility for the evangelization of the world with the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. And lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the age." Ah, that puts a time limit on us! The age will end. The night will fall. The door will close. The sickle of harvest will be laid down.

Who knows precisely when this age of the church's witness to the world will end and Christ will return? No one! But there are millions of believers who feel the end is not far away.

Besides, whether the age of the church's responsibility is about to end or not, it is clear that some of the largest fields of missionary en-

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deavor are now standing open to the Christian gospel with but little assurance that they will remain open much longer. In China we had our great opportunity at the end of World War II. But our government elected to back Western Europe against the rising Communist tide and to write China off as a loss of not too great importance. Now, with Communism in the saddle in China, the door for freedom for the missionary is closed. The time was short, and we let it slip from us.

The opportunity for missions is almost unprecedented! And yet, world conditions being what they are, it must be added: "The time is short." What we do, we must do now!

WITH GOD THERE ARE NO MISSING PERSONS

BY WILLIAM S. DEAL

ON AUGUST 6, 1930, Judge Joseph Crater, then 41 years old and a prominent jurist, disappeared and has never been found to this day. Police posted rewards and searched far and wide for him. His family employed many people to work on the case, but he is still among the number of persons listed as "Missing."

It was a hot August evening in New York City when the state supreme court justice stepped out of Billy Haas' restaurant on West 45th Street about 9:15 p.m., after dining with friends. He wore a brown suit with a light stripe that evening, it was recalled. He hailed a cab, stepped in and vanished westbound into the night, and into one of the truly classic mysteries of contemporary times.

Where did he go? What became of him? Why did he leave so completely unannounced? Was he murdered? Did he decide to go to another country? No one knows the answer to these questions. All kinds of theor-

I cannot conclude without narrowing the application of this text to our personal lives.

Some of us have unfinished business with Jesus Christ, and we are much too careless about it. Some of us have an exterior coating of Christianity, but Christ has never been allowed to storm with His love the inner citadel of our hearts and capture us at the center for Himself. Some of us have made promises to ourselves or to Him that at an early date we would make our decision and cast our lot with Him, but we go on day after day with those promises unkept.

Today there is a voice calling to us: "The time is short! The time is short!"

ies have been advanced, many of which have been traced to the end of their possibilities, but none have provided a solution. All efforts to crack the case have proved futile.

WHY RELATE SUCH a story here? Simply to point out that the world is filled with mysteries. People, ever so well known, may disappear and never be found. *But with God there are no mysteries and no missing persons.*

He who watches over the sparrow, He who supplies the need of even the lowliest creatures, knows who you are and where you are.

He knows you by name. Most people have a hard time remembering names. But not God! He never has to take a memory course or be briefed on names. Out of the billions of people on earth, He knows you personally. He knows your name.

He knows where you are 24 hours of the day. His living presence is with you at all times and hallows all of your interests alike. You do not leave Him behind when you leave church on Sunday.

He knows your need and wants to supply that need. Think of how the Lord took the little boy's five loaves and two fishes and multiplied them to feed 5,000 men. Jesus came to these people in the form of their need and He does this for you, too.

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MAN IS A BEING OF moral nature and capable of moral action and choice. He of all earthly creatures says, "I ought" and "I ought not." That something is conscience.

I have seen many definitions of conscience. Joseph Cook says, "It is that faculty in man that makes him feel mean, when he means to be mean."

This definition is faulty for the reason that people do not always feel mean before they are mean. If people hated sin before they commit it as much as they sometimes do after they commit it, there would be far less sin. People are often mean before they feel mean.

Dr. Beverly Carradine said, "Conscience is the ventriloquism of heaven." That is poetic and beautiful, but certainly not practical.

I have made for myself a definition that is more satisfactory. Here is my definition: "Conscience is man's own consciousness of moral obligation." It is that certainly and neither more nor less.

Man has a sense of moral obligation, but conscience does not tell him what is right or wrong. It says, "Do right; do not do wrong." It is not a guide. Aside from divine revelation it does not know what is right or wrong.

People flippantly say, "Let your conscience be your guide." *What a fallacy.* The Apostle Paul standing before a great tribunal said, "I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." Yet he had been injurious and had been a blasphemer and had the slaughter of Christians

Is it safe to let your conscience be your guide?

BY J. L. BRASHER

in his heart and will and had held the clothes of those who stoned Stephen.

If conscience had been sufficient guide, Paul would not have done any of that. But he got a divine revelation that showed him his error. It was all error of the head (the information) and not of the heart or will to disobey God. When he saw Jesus, his actions were immediately reversed as were also his feelings and attitudes.

THERE IS ONLY one true guide, that is the Holy Scriptures illuminated by the Holy Spirit. It is the providence of the gospel to enlighten the mind as to God's standards so that man intellectually sees the truth and the right.

The conscience immediately takes sides with the standard thus raised and creates an inward urge to adjust one's self to the standard thus revealed. The wisdom of definite, clear gospel preaching is seen to bring to the mind what is right and wrong and what is God's will and requirements. Conscience then stirs up the whole inner sensibilities, which make their demands upon the will to right itself with the standard.

The conscience now is a terrible accuser and like a divine sheriff, seeing now as God sees, arraigns the guilty soul before the bar of Justice and demands settlement. This is conviction. The will must yield to the demands of an enlightened conscience or refuse to do so and sin, now more grievously than ever.

But if the will yields and says yes to God as He speaks through His Word and our conscience and pleads guilty to the inner indictment, and now willful selfhood is brought in harmony with God's law and will; God forgives the past and brings peace to the soul. We have peace with God and with our conscience.

Whenever one does what his intelligence tells him is right, he has peace and quiet within. When he does what his mind tells him is wrong, conscience stings him with compunction. Revelation — the light that comes from God's Word — is essential to aid the conscience to know what is right.

THE QUESTION is often asked, or the theory asserted: "If we do what our conscience dictates are we not all right?" Well, if so, why preach the gospel at all? Why send out mission-

TAXING OUR WAY INTO SOCIALISM

The truth is the U.S.
is 25 to 35 per cent
Socialist right now

WITH ONE-FOURTH of the land area of the United States owned outright by the United States Government and with 35 per cent of the

average citizen's income taken by taxes each year, we are 25 to 35 per cent Socialist right now.

At least that is the way Martin Dies views it. And he puts it even stronger than that in his Dallas address before an overflow audience at the Crystal Ballroom, Baker Hotel.

Is Martin Dies wrong about that? Well, consider what Norman Thomas, six times Socialist candidate for President, has to say:

"The chief difference between you (the Republicans) and the Democrats during the past few years is that you people, on the whole, take very reluctantly what the Democrats take quite cheerfully from our (Socialist Party) past platforms."

The punch line of the Martin Dies summary of the situation is that Socialism is but a branch on the Marxian family tree. Both Socialism and

aries? If conscience is sufficient, why a Bible? Why do awakened heathen clamour for a copy of the Holy Scriptures?

You have only to consider this to see the fallacy of such a position. People in the grossest sins as a religious rite are so sure that what they have for religion is right, that they will battle to the death for it. People are capable of and often do espouse the most deadly heresy, and will sacrifice to the limit and die for some false notion while conscience approves.

"Let your conscience be your guide" is a dangerous fallacy. It may lead to the loosest moral living. Conscience is a whisper of responsibility in the soul. It may become a storm, if light comes to intelligence and actions are out of harmony with light.

The Word of God, the Bible, is absolutely necessary to correct living. While the conscience is always on the side of right as the intelligence presents it, and is therefore a vital necessity to our moral nature, it cannot erect a standard of right apart from the intelligent mind.

Here is the importance and necessity of divine revelation, the Holy Scriptures and their proper interpretation and real Christian education in the training of ethical standards of living. Again we say, you can always depend upon the conscience to say "do right" but you must depend upon properly informed minds to say what is right. —PILGRIM HOLINESS ADVOCATE

Communism, as well as our planned-economy liberals in the United States, want to take freedom of decision away from the man and give it to Washington bureaucracy.

The theory is that a problem is best solved by the smallest group farthest away with the most of the taxpayer's money taken from him to give to the *taxeater* who has done nothing to earn it and little to deserve it. —DALLAS NEWS

October 1961

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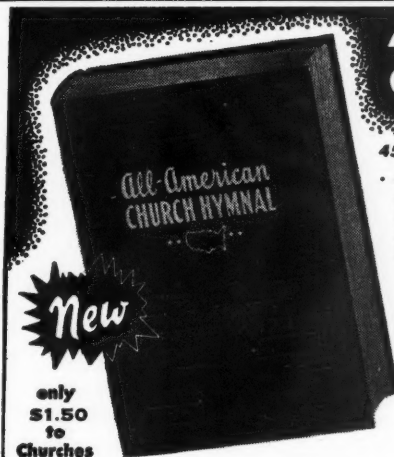
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Whatever Is Worth Doing

BY MANSFORD EVANS

"**W**HATEVER IS WORTH doing at all is worth doing well." Years ago a printshop foreman said that to me, and I've profited by it. It's good advice in any language.

For instance, let's paraphrase the foreman's logic and put it this way: "Whatever is worth praying for is worth believing for." It's not how eloquently we pray, how loud we pray, or how much noise we make when we pray. Rather, it is simply how much we believe. It's not how much we beg, or how we try to convince God we know the score, but how much we believe.

God does not want us to beg. He wants us to believe. I'm afraid that many of us who claim to be believers do more begging than believing at the altars of prayer. What Christ said to Martha at Bethany is still true for us: "Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe." Too, "If ye ask anything in my name, I will do it." Unhappily, there is such a thing as a begging prayer rather than a believing prayer.

If you don't think it is possible to beg yourself out of believing faith, just try to beg yourself into favor with God instead of believing Him for His favor. "God waits to be gracious." Paul knew this truth when he declared: "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

Here is a man who needs to be saved. Above everything else, here's someone who knows that what has to be done for him is worth doing and that only God can do it because it's worth doing well. He's neither Jew nor Greek, but since he has heard the Scripture say: "For the same Lord over all is rich unto all that shall call upon him," he simply prays the sinner's prayer, and is saved in the light of Romans 10:13: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

He didn't need to beg God to save him. He knew that only God, in Christ, could save him, and that He would save him when he believed what God, in His Word, had promised. Too, he knew that "whatever is worth praying for is worth believing for."

The reason some penitents don't find it as easy as that is because they do not believe like that. This is true in all of the areas of the lives of those who have been saved for years. They have not found that, "whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well," including the believing, effectual, fervent praying about which the Apostle James writes.

We may know that "whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well," and still not do it. We may know that God is honored when we obey Him, and still perhaps we do not obey Him. We may know that "The wisdom that is from above is . . . without partiality, and without hypocrisy," and yet we do not show forth that type of wisdom.

ONE OF THE MOST practical spiritual Lessons in the New Testament Epistles is to be found in the first chapter of Second Peter — especially for Christian believers. The things we are asked to add to our faith are thrilling. For instance:

Virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, love. Why are they thrilling? "For if these *things* be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these *things* is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, [thank God for the rather!] brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: *for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.*" Then the climax in the 11th verse:

Apples of Gold

You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one.

—James A. Froude

Beware of the rubber conscience and the concrete heart.

It would be a fine thing if all those who point a finger would hold out a hand instead.

Doing nothing is the most tiresome job in the world, because you can't stop and rest.

—Mel Johnson

The finest gift a man can give to his age and time is the gift of a constructive and creative life.

Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny spark of possibility with-in you into the flame of achievement.

Know thyself; know your strengths and your weaknesses; your relation to the universe; your potentialities; your spiritual heritage; your aims and purposes; take stock of yourself.

—Socrates

A wise man recognizes that although he cannot always control what happens to him, he can always control how he responds to his failures.

Happiness does not depend upon a full pocketbook, but upon a mind full of rich thoughts and a heart full of rich emotions.

The first step in the art of friendship is to be a friend; then making friends takes care of itself.

"For so an entrance shall be ministered to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

These *additions* to faith surely prove that "whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well."

The Defender

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IN MAY, 1952, I WAS FACED with making the most important decision of my life — the decision to accept or reject the person of Jesus Christ. Many events led to this moment. Let me tell you about it.

Life for me began in Lufkin, Texas and from early childhood I never knew what it was to want for anything. I remember lovely clothes, a big automobile, and even my own ponies. Life was wonderful, and in my childish thoughts I never imagined it would be any different.

But with the depression it all changed! One move after another occurred and we finally settled in Houston. But things were different! The luxuries of life that I had grown accustomed to were now a part of the past. I was growing up in a strange new world dominated by something known as an inferiority complex.

I was self-conscious of my entire appearance — unattractive clothes, braces on my teeth and a permanent scar above my eye which resulted from a fall.

Like most teen-agers, I longed for popularity and recognition — even though I knew they were out of reach.

Life, however, had another about-face for me, and it was just around the corner.

During my first year in college (University of Houston) I was selected Miss Varsity — the school's top beauty honor! My dreams had become a reality. But the reality became greater even than the dreams.

As a result of this honor, I was offered modeling jobs in Houston's leading department stores, and in a few years Houston welcomed its first modeling studio, with my name on the door.

Then came the greatest thrill of all, my own television show, "Best Foot

Christ Is the Answer

BY MARY BETH McDONALD NAYE

Forward," on which I interviewed many of the most famous people in the country.

At last I had reached out and taken hold of the glittering bauble the world calls success. Yet I knew that something was missing, something lacking. There *must* be something more important in life than all this! As the inner turmoil became more annoying, I realized that I must find the answer.

DURING BILLY GRAHAM's campaign in Houston, I attended a meeting in the Coliseum to seek background material preparatory to interviewing the evangelistic team on my television program. A huge banner stretched across the stage, bearing these words: "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). I knew that this could have been spoken by only one person. Deep within I knew that I had found the answer, but I was afraid to acknowledge it.

On the telecast a few days later, I was told these truths:

"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

"There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10).

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Then I learned the glorious fact that someone had already paid the penalty for sin:

"God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Could it be explained in any clearer way than this? *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."* (John 3:36).

After the program went off the air, while we were still seated under the glaring lights on the set, I knew that my moment of decision had come. With no further delay, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour.

Since that day in 1952, the Lord has given me a wonderful Christian husband. We and our children now live in Louisville, Kentucky, where my husband's business has its headquarters.

Today, after giving my life completely to Christ, I can say with more assurance than ever before that not only do I know where I am going to spend eternity, but I know that the Lord provides for every need in this life through the thousands of promises in His Word.

As I speak to student groups and women's clubs in Houston and Louisville, I can confidently tell them that Christ alone can give power, peace and purpose to life.

The answer to real happiness is the living Jesus Christ.

Reprints of this article may be secured from the American Tract Society, 513 W. 166th Street, New York 32, N.Y.

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Jesus' Word was the Father's, but He spoke it, He lived it, He acted it. That made it a living thing.

He said, "The words that I speak are not mine, but my Father's words."

Again He said, "The words that I have spoken unto you are spirit and are life."

We take Jesus' Words and we act upon them. That makes them live.

The Defender

The Prayer Circle

The Apostle Paul planned to visit the Roman church but was "much hindered." Then he wrote a letter outlining his plans, promising "When I shall come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of Christ."

In these days of great uncertainty and fear through menacing world conditions, let me pass on to you the confidence, certainty, and assurance of this "fulness of the blessing of Christ," attainable only by complete surrender to Him. He is the Way, the Truth, the Life, the Light of the World, the King and Lord of Heaven and Earth. We "can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth us."

Whenever you feel the need of the fulness of His blessing for solving special problems or for comfort and consolation please feel free to call **The Defender Prayer Circle** to join you in prayer. When in need of prayer, comfort or counsel, write Box 601, Oklahoma City 1, Oklahoma, or call CEntal 2-7117; CEntal 2-7118; Victor 2-6476.

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E. A. H., Filer, Idaho: You are made of pure gold, figuratively speaking. A valiant soldier of the cross, your crown will overflow with stars. God bless you, dear friend.

Mrs. W. R. S., Louisville, Kentucky: Your prayers in behalf of my sister are greatly appreciated. She is improving, although I feel she has a long way to go. However, with rest, care and treatment . . . and especially with the prayers of God's children, she will recover.

F. A. R., Leonardville, Kansas: May God keep your business going and trust there are many years of service still ahead.

H. B., Ogallah, Kansas: I do enjoy hearing from you. Your letters sound personal, not cut and dried.

V. L., Des Moines, Iowa: I wish I could do much more to help, and pray that together we may stand.

Mr. and Mrs. O. H., Waco, Nebraska: We are trusting you to keep us informed. Oh, how we are praying that Communism will never get a solid footing in this beloved America.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B., Ojai, California: We are glad to be able to help a little towards paying for the paper, for without it you could not carry on your good work.

F. N. C., Jacksonville, Illinois: I am a little stronger. Thanks for your prayers in my behalf.

Rev. L. S., Winchester, Indiana: May the Lord richly bless the work you folks are doing, that the people of this country might be awakened and get back to God.

J. L., Denver, Colorado: Your letter came today. Thanks for the personal note. I do like **The Defender** magazine. To me, in living it is as important as a stove to cook your food on . . . this is food for my soul. Help I will, in prayers and offerings.

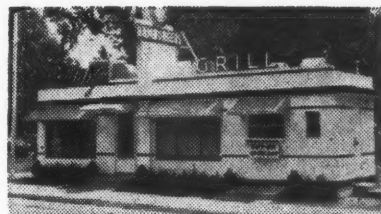
Mrs. M. L. S., Descano, California: I was, frankly, disappointed in **Mercury** in the beginning under your publication, but it seems that you are hitting the stride that made **American Mercury** great. If this nation, under God, is to remain the guardian of faith, of freedom and of proud men and women, it will be because such publications as yours, both **American Mercury** and **The Defender**, continue to reach and inform the American people.

Mrs. J. R. H., Lucene, Valley, California: I approve of all you stand for and pray the Lord to bless you.

A. F. M., Covina, California: Too many organizations put the emphasis on spending God's money on ornate and expensive structures which ultimately will be leveled by one atomic missile. The missionary and the spreading of the gospel are put in second place. With this procedure I disagree. You people at Defenders are dedicated people and you have and are following the right idea.

E. L. K., Glendale, Arizona: I cannot read much as my eyes are past that, but am thankful I can read some if the print is good. I appreciate your attitude regarding building these days when the coming of the Lord is so near and the Communists are about to take over. My church is in a large building program, of which I do not approve, for I believe we should be working to get people ready for the rapture and to save our flag and country.

K. J., Columbia, Missouri: Hello there, Flowers. Just stay in there and pitch!



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Any person who speaks in public will appreciate the help to be found in this new, fresh, stimulating, and humorous volume.

At the outset, Mr. Prochnow presents ten suggestions on how a presiding officer can insure a successful meeting, and ten points to help the speaker deliver a successful speech. Good advice, too!

There are 16 pages of epigrams and quips, 26 of quotes from biography, and 16 of inspiring illustrations and ideas. Another 30 pages include quotations from sermons and up-to-date speeches. Fourteen pages of worthwhile thoughts and 16 of interesting facts and ideas conclude this valuable speaker's aid.

SO YOU WANT TO BE POPULAR. By Fayly H. Gothern. (Zondervan Publishing House, cloth binding, 118 pages, price \$1.95.)

THIS CHARMING VOLUME was read with deep interest tinged with regret that it was not available in the high school days of this reviewer, who otherwise might have been saved some hard experiences.

Every youngster has the desire, often well concealed, to be liked by everyone, and truly needs the advice Mrs. Gothern is well prepared to give, both through educational background and experience gained as youth director in churches in Texas and New Mexico.

A glance at chapter titles presents a bird's eye view of the challenging contents, and the style of the author. 1. *So You Want to be Popular.* Well, make up your mind to work at it. Then "get with it!" And don't

think you can get by without work! There are 13 steps, but each one is a lucky step.

2. *Mirror, Mirror on the Wall.* Study your appearance. Are you careful about details of cleanliness and suitable clothing? First impressions are important!

3. *The Magnetic You.* About your personality. Here is a real workshop! There is no place for wet blankets in popularity contests. Beauty is not the streamliner on the main line. Besides, it is only skin deep. Mrs. Gothen has a list of 15 characteristics that make people popular. So, get to work on you.

4. *Putting Yourself Across.* Have you really worked on Number two and Number three? Then this one will not be so hard. Still, there are things to do—in fact, 21 of them! But you have enough pep to carry them through, and they'll be fun.

5. *Getting Along With Others.* Do you have difficulty in working with others, or in social contacts? The author has eleven remedies for that, and they are guaranteed to effect a cure, if taken according to directions. Remember, in a play "there are no small parts, only small actors." You are just as important in your part, as is the star. A lot of things you may think essential may not be necessary at all.

6. *So You Have Problems.* Well, who doesn't? Problems are made to be solved, but running away from them will not do it. Here are 23 nice ways to "get the answer."

7. *First Things First.* Some may say that this should be the first chapter instead of the last! Perhaps... but if you are a Christian, you have been putting Christ first without realizing it, right down to the eleventh and last suggestion of this last chapter. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." So don't major on all the minors and leave the spiritual major to chance.

This delightful guide book to popularity is exceptionally helpful to youth of high school age; but adults, putting it to practice, could well become easier to live with!

Defender Missions

Laymen in Action

BY DICK HILLIS

HAS THE CHURCH in America run true to form so far in 1961? If so, some 50,000 churches have not had a single convert during the past months. To bring men to Christ is certainly the business of the church, but here is apparent spiritual bankruptcy.

I am a missionary. The problems on the field are more than I can handle. Why should I then be concerned with the failure of the churches here at home?

The answer to that is very simple. Our missionaries are products of churches in America. If those churches have no soul-winning program, how will the missionaries they send out become soul winners? The work of the church in America and abroad is co-related. Spiritual coldness in America will affect the church in Europe, Asia and around the world.

The exploding world population, the fast spread of the cults in the United States, the upsurge of ethnic religions abroad and the frightening "missionary" drive of both Communism and Catholicism make us stop and ask ourselves, "Are we winning or losing?"

Statisticians tell us that the U.S. population will reach the 300 million mark in the next 40 years. This would call for a doubling of our church effort, if we are to keep up with the increase in population. Christ gave to His church the command to carry the gospel to every creature and with world population increasing even faster than that of the United States, the church's missionary program must also be more than doubled. The question we must answer is, "How is it going to be done?"

By every member of the church witnessing! "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses

unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

THE NEXT QUESTION then is, "Why is the job not being done today?"

The pastor should be first to share the blame for our present failure. Either he is not himself preaching the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit, or he is not teaching his people how to witness and to win their fellowmen to Christ.

The pastor's work is not only that of preaching the gospel but of teaching and training every Christian to witness. In writing to Timothy, Paul said, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (II Timothy 2:2)

Here we see a threefold teaching progression. Paul teaching Timothy — Timothy teaching faithful men — and faithful men teaching others also. In our modern times this might take us down the steps from pastor... to elders... to deacons... to every member of the congregation. If every link in this chain were strong, the entire church would be witnessing and we would reach this generation in this generation with the gospel.

It is much easier for a pastor to share his ministry than to share his life. He needs help in that ministry and thus he appoints laymen to assist him. Laymen, however, need his example and his life. It is life sharing and not preaching that is contagious. The common lasts for a half hour. The life sharing goes on continually.

It is our privilege to share our lives with others and to build into the lives of others.

To seven year old Johnnie, the

most interesting thing in the house was the old grandfather clock which daddy had purchased from an antique shop. Each morning would find Johnnie sitting on the stair landing eagerly waiting for the big clock to strike seven. One morning the insides of the monster got mixed up and to the astonishment of the boy it struck 14 times. Jumping to his feet he ran to daddy's bedroom and awakened him with the cry, "Daddy, Daddy, it is later than it ever has been before."

As we watch the prophetic picture we cannot but believe that the coming of our Lord draweth nigh. He may come for all of us this year. If He does not, He will certainly come for some of us.

Will we meet Him with joy or will we be ashamed of His coming? That question will be answered in part by our answer to another question. Are we fully obeying His orders to get the gospel to every creature in every nation in every generation?



The above photograph was taken on a Sunday morning earlier this year and shows members of the Sunday School at Torrecillas Defenders Chapel, Puerto Rico.

Rev. Juan Falero is pastor of this fine congregation.

Shortly after the picture was taken, the modest chapel building that houses the Sunday School was dedicated. Members and pastors of other Defender churches attended the ceremony, held on February 19, 1961. Among them were Dr. Mateo Cruz, Dr. and Mrs. Gonzalez-Diaz, Rev. and Mrs. Licinio Rolon and Superintendent J. F. Rodriguez.

Dr. Rodriguez reports that the work of winning souls is going forward in Puerto Rico under the anointing of God. Defender missions are rounding out 30 years of ministry on the island.

LESSON NUMBER ONE

October 15, 1961

GROWTH IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

KEY WORD: Fulfill

Old Testament law shaped the people of Israel into a great nation. The Commandment, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind . . . and thy neighbor as thyself," was the very foundation of the whole law.

The Israelite was content to obey the letter of the law, but often missed its spirit, which is an altogether different matter. They accused Jesus of not keeping "the traditions of the fathers" and He charged them with nullifying the law of God by those traditions.

In God's plan, Jesus brought an interpretation of the law which meant inevitable growth in the knowledge of God and His purpose for mankind. His purpose was not destruction, but the opening of a new and better way for man to know God. He fulfilled every prophecy of the Old Testament regarding the Christ. He brought new thoughts to law-bound minds, opening them to new ideas and new visions of God.

KEY VERSE: Matthew 5:44-45

Here are concise directions on how to be a true child of God. As a concession to human nature God gave His people a just law — "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." But men used that law to cover their own evil natures which often led to cruel retaliation and even murder.

But Jesus came to teach that only Godlike love wins. "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you."

And why should you do so? "That ye may be children of your Father which is in heaven." He is good to both just and unjust. Love like His compels the second mile; does not

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October 29, 1961

THE CHURCH AND
CHRISTIAN GROWTH

KEY WORD: Body

What makes a "body?" Webster says it is "the total organized substance of an animal or plant," also "a number of individuals or things collectively, usually as united, organized, systematized, or acting together, for some purpose."

A study of the human body, with all its parts and functions working together with perfect timing, arouses in one a sense of awe. Like David, we exclaim, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made!"

But should one member be injured the entire body suffers. If one part is removed, the body is no longer a perfect whole, even though all other members share the effort to compensate. Each organ has its own special function which none other can carry.

Paul goes on to explain how the church is the spiritual body of Christ, while He is the Head which governs it.

KEY VERSE: I Corinthians 12:14

"For the body is not one member, but many." Here Paul is speaking of the church. How laughable it would be to hear a human ear say to its body, "If I can't be an eye, I will not be a part of you!" Yet very often members of Christ's body let jealousy and spite cause strife and division, to the injury of the whole organism.

An example of this was recently shouted to the world in glaring headlines, as police were forced to intervene in a large church gathering, to quell a riot launched by two men who were determined to have the same place of honor. Only eternity can record the extent of damage done to the cause of Christ by such unchristian conduct.

The church is not a social club to be joined, but a body of "born-again" persons having one head which gives life and direction to the body. Without Christ as activator the body be-

Sunday School Comments

seek revenge; says with Stephen, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." And it gave Stephen the privilege of seeing Jesus standing in the glory of God in heaven. God grant that all Christians may see Him in His glory while here on earth!

KEY FACT: We mature by following Jesus

He advises us to follow His example. "Be ye also perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5:48.) "The Father hath not left me alone; for I do always the things that please him." (John 8:29.)

The Greek word translated "perfect" means "complete, full-grown, mature." The Christian life, therefore, must be a continual growth toward maturity, which, according to Paul, occurs when we "come in the unity of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ . . . that we henceforth be no more children . . . but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things." (Ephesians 4:3-15.)

LESSON NUMBER TWO

October 22, 1961

GROWTH IN
CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS

KEY WORD: Put

Attitudes that Christians should maintain toward others often present difficult problems, especially to those new in the Christian life. To the young Colossian church, which Paul deeply loved, a standard was set, "Even as Christ . . . so also do ye" (Colossians 3:13).

October 1961

When a person is converted he puts off "the old man with his deeds" and "puts on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" (vss. 9-10).

Paul enumerates the sins of the "old man," and there is not a pretty one on the list. Read them in verses 5, 8 and 9. Have you failed to shed any of these? If you have, get rid of them at once and replace them with the white robe of Christ described in verses 12-14. As some one has said, when we have killed five and put off the six, we are ready to put on more than that, and be all dressed up, with some "place" to go. For the "place," see verse 4.

KEY VERSE: Colossians 3:2

"Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth."

Paul precedes this statement with another, showing that a born-again person must seek the things that are *above*, where Christ is, so that we shall be with Him who is our life, when He shall appear in His glory. Racial, religious, social and cultural differences fade away in the glory of Christian fellowship, where "Christ is all and in all" to all.

KEY FACT: Love is the test

Love is "the bond of perfectness," binding Christians into a new relationship with God and fellowmen.

First there must be a love for God engaging every power of human life. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. . . . The second is . . . this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Mark 12:30-31.)

Then, and only then will "the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and it is "the peace which passeth understanding."

comes like that of Lazarus in John 11:39.

KEY FACT: The Spirit unites the body

The Holy Spirit is the catalyst which unites all true Christians in Christ, having Christlike attributes as His body, and governed by Him as its head.

Other figures of speech are used in the Scripture to stress the headship of Christ over His body. He is the chief cornerstone of a "holy temple in the Lord; in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

The Church is a privilege direct from God. It is His sheepfold and Christ is the good Shepherd. "I know my sheep, and am known of mine . . . I lay down my life for the sheep."

To associate with other Christians in His church is a most prolific source of spiritual growth.

LESSON NUMBER FOUR

November 5, 1961

GROWTH IN CHRISTIAN CONCERN

KEY WORD: Inasmuch

The prophetic discourse of Jesus concerning the sheep and "goat" peoples is not intended to be used in this lesson as a comment on reward and punishment, but to teach that a truly Christian life demands genuine concern for the needs and sufferings of others. Paul states it in Galatians

6:2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, by becoming the "Son of man," identified Himself with all humanity, and set the pattern for us. He was especially compassionate toward the poor and oppressed. His discourse in Matthew 25 provides the answers which will decide the future of man.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it," whether through love . . . or through cruel inhumanity, or just selfish indifference . . . ye have done it unto me!" There is no mistaking this test. We either do, or we do not. Ignorance gives no in-between status. Every person decides his attitude toward others according to his own nature.

KEY VERSE: Matthew 25:40

"Ye have done it unto me." Eleven times in two verses (35-36) Jesus stresses the first person pronouns "I" and "me." I was hungry, thirsty, naked, and sick stranger in a foul prison cell, and out of love you ministered to me.

This is the real test of discipleship. It is a vast, outflowing love which, regardless of cost, leads one to minister to those in need.

Note that both the righteous and unrighteous were surprised at the King's pronouncement. "Lord, when did we see you in such dire need?"

God-like love, or the lack of it provided the motivation of both, and each was rewarded accordingly. The poet Lowell expresses the Lord's thought regarding the service of the

righteous, "Who gives himself with his alms feeds three; Himself, his hungering neighbor, and me."

KEY FACT: No one lives unto himself

In relationship to God there are only two classes of people, just and unjust; righteous and unrighteous; good and evil; "sheep" and "goats."

The born-again person is energized by Christ. The Lord becomes all in all to him. The believer says, "I am not my own; I was bought with a price; I will glorify God" (I Corinthians 6:20) for I am redeemed, not with silver nor gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, (I Peter 1:18-19). It is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me." (Galatians 2:20).

If Christ lives in me, I am His hands and feet to do His work, His lips to speak His word. I must give myself in service even as He loved me, and gave Himself for me. For no man liveth unto himself. (Romans 14:7.)

LESSON NUMBER FIVE

November 12, 1961

GROWTH IN CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

KEY WORD: Talent

The "talent" of Scripture was applied to a monetary unit of gold or silver. The gold talent was worth, at present-day values, around \$30,000.

WITNESS

The Lord intends all of His followers to be witnesses — with none exempted

By GERALD S. POPE

ACTS IS A BOOK of methods and every episode recorded therein is a commentary on the words, "ye shall be

witnesses" (1:8). Jesus intended that all of His followers be witnesses, with none exempted, and it was for this reason the Holy Ghost was given.

What is implied by the word *witness*? Dwight L. Moody — that rare soul who never let a day pass without speaking to someone about Christ — gave the best explanation I have found. "A witness just tells what he knows. A witness does not need to be eloquent. Let him try his powers of oratory on the judge, and the

judge will set him down quickly. 'We pay the lawyers to do that,' he will say, 'you just tell what you know.'"

Moody was right! There is no better way to explain salvation than to tell what happened to you. Experiences you have earned the right to tell furnish the most convincing arguments, the clearest explanations. Gladstone used to say over and over again, "One example is worth a thousand arguments."

The blind man in the ninth chap

The Defender

while the silver was between \$1,000 and \$2,000.

The meaning of this parable of Jesus is that certain abilities are given to us by God. Through what some designate as "the accident of birth" these inherent gifts vary. But Jesus makes it clear that each person must give an account to God, not according to how much he received, but how he used what he did receive.

It is an axiom that we lose what we do not use. Not only is the talent lost through our own laziness and contempt for the master, but it becomes a total loss to both ourselves and our Lord.

KEY VERSE: Matthew 25:14

He "called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods."

The last commission of the master implied his trust in these three servants. The last words of our Lord before His leaving "for a far country" indicate His reliance upon us to carry on the work He has entrusted to His servants. "Ye shall be witnesses." This was amplified by Paul in II Timothy 2:2, "The things that thou hast heard of me . . . the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

According to our talents we are to work. "There are diversities of gifts," says Paul (I Corinthians 12:4) but there are also those gifts *everyone* has in common. *First*, all have the gift of *time* — 24 hours every day. How many precious unreplaceable minutes do you *waste* each day in which you could be working for Him?

Second, everyone has the gift of

influence. How do we use ours? For good or evil?

Third, each person has *something he can do*, either sloppily or well. How are you doing your task?

"God hath set some in the Church" (I Corinthians 12:28-30). If your place is that of janitor, are you being His profitable servant in it? Remember, faithfulness in the little things is the criterion of promotion to greater responsibilities.

KEY FACT: Every Christian is a steward

He is a steward not only of money, but of time, ability and love. It was said of the early church, "neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things in common. (Acts 4:32-35.) The result of such Christian selfishness was that "with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all: Neither was there any among them that lacked." (Vss. 33,34.)

Giving is called a Christian grace. Paul clarifies this in II Corinthians 8 and 9, by urging us to imitate Christ, who "though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

The reason for such joyful, unselfish giving by Macedonian Christians was that they "first gave their own selves to the Lord" (6:5). Faithful Christian stewardship is a reasonable service and promotes spiritual growth in every phase of the Christian life. (Romans 12:1.)

ter of John could not explain theologically all that had happened to him; but he did know that whereas he was blind, now he could see; he did know that it was a man called Jesus, and no one could keep him from telling it.

As a believer in Jesus Christ, you have experienced the New Birth and can testify to the fact of salvation. You know what Jesus Christ did for you and what He can do for others. You know how you obtained salva-

tion and how others may obtain it. You know the consequences of neglect and have thereby earned the right to warn others.

As a witness, your job is not to expound a doctrine, nor win an argument, but to persuade someone to accept the Saviour. This is witnessing.

Lyman Beecher said, "The greatest thing a human being can do is to bring another human being to Jesus."

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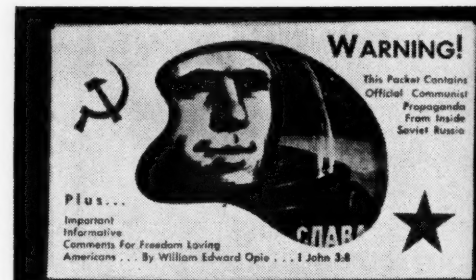
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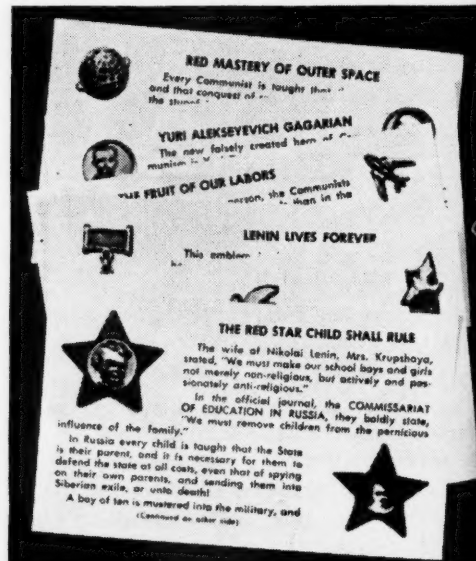
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